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BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS.



THE LATE REV. DAVID ROWLAND.

[Continued from the last Number.]

IN performing the duties of his mission, the labours of Mr. Rowland seem to have been incessant, frequently preaching four times, and occasionally six times a week : he also read prayers at the Hospital twice a week, and some part of his time was occupied weekly in superintending the Regimental School. The success, which he met with, was accordingly not a little gratifying, and encouraged him to proceed ; at one time he preached a charity sermon for the benefit of the School of Industry, and 47*l.* were collected in the church ; and at another, he preached with such effect that a deputation from the inhabitants requested him to deliver the same sermon on the following Sunday. Nor was his popularity confined to the higher order of his parishioners ; for, agreeably with the custom of the Roman Catholics in the island to haul fire-wood, on a day appointed, for the use of their priests, sufficient to last for the year, an example never before imitated by the Protestants, a day was fixed on to haul fuel for him in the year of his departure, when his rations were discontinued, and the emulation to serve him exceeded every thing of the kind known at St. John's.

Anxious to promote the objects of his mission in every respect, he took an active part in establishing a District Committee in connection with the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge in London, to co-operate therewith in the attainment of its important objects ; which Committee was formed Oct. 16, 1814, when Sir Richard Goodwin Keats, who had succeeded Sir John Duckworth in being Governor of the island, was requested to become Patron, and Mr. Rowland, on account of his zeal and exertions on the occasion, was requested to accept the office of President.

But, although assiduous in promoting the spiritual welfare and improvement of all around him, so admirable was the disposition of his time, that he contrived to add considerably to his own mental acquirements, which his interrupted education prevented him from attaining at an earlier period. Writing to a friend, he says, " With respect to my studies, besides my weekly preparations, which take up much of my time, every Sunday

evening I read Ecclesiastical History ; every Monday is devoted to the study of a chapter of Van der Hooght's Hebrew Bible, which I endeavour to analyse grammatically with the help of Robertson's *Clavis Pentateuchi* and two Lexicons ; that chapter I read once every day in the week till it becomes perfectly familiar to me. This, you will say, is slow work, but I presume it is sure ; it is next to impossible not to learn something by such a course of study. I have also read a great many books, some on chemistry, and other sciences. In composing Sermons, of which I have written a great many of all descriptions, I have of late turned my attention mostly to the best models of composition, in order to acquire, if possible, a tolerable style ; Porteus, Atterbury, Hunter, Blair, Logan, Gisborne, Robinson, and Scott, are my favourite authors ; Usher, Tillotson, Barrow, &c. supply an ample store of matter. I have attained so much of the French language as to read an easy French author, and pronounce it intelligibly, and anticipate the pleasure of reading the works of Bourdaloue, Massillon, and Bossuet." In addition to these attainments, he also acquired some knowledge of the Italian language, and continued likewise to pay attention to classical literature. In the year 1813 he undertook to educate a young gentleman, a native of St. John's, and prepare him for his entrance at college, who, having been four years under his care, when he was matriculated, and obtained a scholarship at King's College, Windsor, Nova Scotia, was examined in the Greek Testament, and in the works of Virgil, Horace, and Homer, and passed what was stated to be "an excellent examination."

During the time Mr. Rowland was at St. John's, his health experienced several interruptions. In December, 1812, he writes, "I am just recovered from a short illness, which confined me for twelve days ; the climate must be trying to an European constitution, yet I have no reason to complain, but, on the contrary, to be very thankful." The rigour of the climate, and his very great exertions, were, however, at length too much for him, and considerably affected his health, and to such a degree, that he was occasionally so severely afflicted with rheumatism as to be deprived of the use of his hands. Finding, that his continuance at the place was likely to be attended with serious consequences, if not with a total inability to perform the duties of his station, he was induced, in January 1816, to offer his resignation to the Society from whom he had received the appointment ; who not only in the most handsome manner acceded to his wishes in permitting

him to revisit his native land, but expressed their approbation of his services in the most flattering terms; and, after his return, presented him with a gratuity of 50*l*. Sir R. G. Keats, the Governor, also testified his approbation of his conduct in the most handsome manner.

Having purposed to travel over some part of the Continent in his way to England, he took advantage of the opportunity of reaching Europe by a ship bound to Oporto. When nearly arrived at this place, he had the misfortune of having a very bad fall on ship-board, which dislocated his shoulder, and caused him to feel very acute pain; from the effects of which accident he considered himself never to have thoroughly recovered. Having travelled so much of Portugal, Spain, and France, as he thought proper, he arrived in England in the latter end of 1817.

In the commencement of the following year, he waited on the Bishop of St. David's, who, as before mentioned, had recommended him to the notice of the Society, and lately, previously to his recrossing the Atlantic, had been so kind as to promise him his patronage after his arrival in this country. And, the curacy of the populous and respectable town of Carmarthen being vacant, the Bishop gladly availed himself of one so competent being disengaged, and immediately placed him in the situation.

Previously to his undertaking the care of the parish, he spent some days at Kerry Vicarage, Montgomeryshire, with the worthy incumbent the Rev. J. Jenkins, who had invited the Rev. Walter Davies, Rector of Manafon, and other friends, to meet him. When assembled, the company employed a portion of their time in writing Welsh verses on the subject of their meeting, and Mr. Rowland contributed his share on the occasion. Being however afterwards doubtful of the correctness of his composition, he intimates his wishes in a letter from Carmarthen to his friend Mr. Jenkins, dated April 18, 1818, that a plan would be formed to induce some Bard to settle in South Wales to instruct young men in Welsh Prosody; "Bardism," he says, "might be revived in South Wales by that means, and a new era formed;" and in a postscript of the same letter, he writes—"As you are the Ifor Hael of the present day, will you revolve in your mind my proposal for the revival of Bardism, and your name shall be immortalized." On a subsequent intimation of the matter to the Bishop by Mr. Rowland, his Lordship, ever alive to the interests of the Principality, paid great attention to what he said on the subject, and, afterwards deliberating thereon in his capacious and discern-

ing mind, improved very much on the original idea, and suggested the revival of the ancient Welsh Eisteddfods, and the forming of a Society, whose objects should not only embrace Mr. Rowland's wishes, but also other subjects connected with Welsh Literature and Antiquities. Some communications took place in consequence between Mr. Rowland, Mr. Jenkins, and the Rev. Walter Davies, and a meeting of friends to the project was held at Kerry in the month of August following, when the Bishop was present; and it was finally determined, that a public meeting should be convened at Carmarthen on the ensuing 20th of October, for forming a society for obtaining the objects in view, and measures were immediately taken to arrange the subjects to be submitted to its consideration. This meeting was accordingly held, and most respectably attended, the proposed society formed, and Mr. Rowland elected Secretary, as is already known to the public. These particulars are the more minutely stated, as they contain the primary ideas suggested, and the first steps taken, towards forming the CAMBRIAN SOCIETY.

R.

[To be concluded in the next Number.]

TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

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PARISH OF LLAN-SILIN, IN THE COUNTY OF DENBIGH.

[Continued from the last Number.]

§ 8. ANCIENT HOUSES—MEN OF NOTE, &c.—“ In the porch of the Church of Whitchurch, near Denbigh (says Mr. Pennant), is a brass plate, on which are engraven, kneeling, Richard Middleton, Governor of Denbigh Castle, and Jane his wife, daughter of Hugh Dryhurst of Denbigh. She died Dec. 3, 1565, aged 40; he, Feb. 8, 1575, aged 67. Behind him are nine sons, behind her seven daughters, all kneeling.” Rhys Cain, in an Elegy on the Governor and his Lady, mentions the number of their offspring:—

Mae cedyrn am eu codi,
 Ac o ryw hon, a'i gwr hi;
 Naw mab rhoed, ym mhob rhediad,
 A saith loer—urddas wyth wlad.